



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

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Virtual education advisers to examine virtual schools and online learning

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster has invited a group of virtual education advisers to examine virtual schools and online learning in public PK-12 schools in Wisconsin, conduct public hearings, and report to the Department of Public Instruction in the fall.

Virtual schools, sometimes called online schools or cyber schools, serve students who are not present in a physical school building and provide academic instruction via the Internet, delivered books and materials, telephone conferencing, and personal visits. Online learning includes coursework that is delivered via the Internet to one or more students in a classroom, library, or computer room in a school building. Both require that students have access to a licensed teacher to facilitate learning.

The advisers' report may include suggestions for changes in DPI practice, administrative rule, and Wisconsin State Statutes to ensure quality education for all PK-12 students. Issues they will explore may include the role of state, regional, and local school districts in virtual schools and online learning; responsibility for reviewing coursework for quality and alignment with educational standards; the use of assessments and data collection to ensure the effectiveness of part-time virtual programs; provision of special education, library media, and other student services; and management of licensure, funding, enrollment, attendance, and session length.

The North Central Regional Educational Laboratory will be involved in the virtual education advisers' research, which will include conducting public hearings around the state. Calvin Potter of Sheboygan Falls will chair the State Superintendent's Virtual Education Advisers, who are representative of the state's online learning community.

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NOTE: A list of the State Superintendent's Virtual Education Advisers follows.

State Superintendent's Virtual Education Advisers

Chairperson

Calvin Potter, Sheboygan Falls

Advisers

Carol Craig
Chippewa Valley Technical College, Eau Claire

Andrea Deau
WiscNet Educational Technical Liaison, Madison

Dan Hanrahan, Principal
Wisconsin Virtual Academy, Fredonia

Mary Heil-Allen
Wisconsin Virtual School, Sturgeon Bay School District

Rep. John Lehman of Racine
Assembly Committee on Education, Assembly Committee on Education Reform

Dawn Nordine, Director
Wisconsin Virtual School, Tomahawk

Sen. Luther Olsen of Ripon
Chair, Senate Committee on Education

Joan Peebles, Technology and Learning Director
Madison Metropolitan School District

Nicole Schweitzer, Principal
Wisconsin Connections Academy, Appleton

Sue Steiner, Program Director
Kiel eSchool

Annette Walaszek
Wisconsin Virtual School, Algoma School District